

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1–12, and 21 were allowed. Claims 13, 16, 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,141,769 to Petivan et al. (“Petivan”). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Petivan. Claims 14, 15, 17 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants hereby amend claims 13 and 15 without any intention of disclaiming any equivalents thereof. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally-filed. Applicants also cancel claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is entered by the present amendments to the claims. Upon entry of this paper, claims 1-13 and 15–22 will be pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 13, 16, 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Petivan. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Petivan.

Applicants have amended each of the above referenced claims to include subject matter from allowable claims. In particular, independent claim 13 has been amended to recite, “(f) if the first CPU fails, allowing the second CPU to access the first mass storage device through the first I/O subsystem” from allowable claim 14. All other rejected dependent claims now depend upon allowed or allowable independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that these rejections are overcome and that the rejected claims are patentable over Petivan.

Objection to Dependent Claims

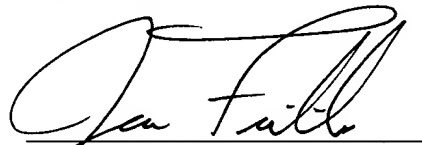
Claims 14, 15, 17 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have cancelled claim 14, and have amended Claim 13 to include the limitations previously contained in claim 14. In addition, dependent claims 15, 17 and 20 all now depend upon allowable independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the objections are overcome and that claims 15, 17 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the above amendments and remarks to be fully responsive to all the grounds of rejection and objection raised in the Office Action. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims 1-13 and 15-22 in light of the foregoing Amendment and Response, and respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection, and allowance of the pending claims in due course.

If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview or Examiner's amendment would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Very Truly Yours,



Jason P. Fiorillo

Attorney for the Applicants

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham
75 High Street
Boston, MA 02109

Date: June 2, 2005
Reg. No.: 52,892
Tel. No. (617) 261-3186
Fax No. (617) 261-3175